

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/724,863 Confirmation No.: 1592  
Applicant : Akkary, Haitham H.  
Filed : December 2, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 2186  
Examiner : Krofcheck, Michael C.  
  
Docket No. : 1020P17876

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on July 19, 2006, with the three month shortened statutory period for response under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) set to expire on October 19, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Accompanying this Amendment is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and its associated fee. No extension of time are required as these papers are filed within the shortened statutory period.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.